

Claims

20. A method of attaching a sheet material to a structure, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of magnetic holding devices each comprising a housing including at least one magnet and having a substantially flat magnetic surface on or in close proximity to said magnet;

placing sheet material against at least one magnetically receptive surface of the structure;

placing said magnetic holding devices with said substantially flat magnetic surface against the sheet material to hold the sheet material in position between the magnetic surfaces of the holding devices and said at least one magnetically receptive surface of the structure so that the sheet material can be secured to the structure.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein each magnetic holding device comprises an elongate member including one or more magnets.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the elongate member houses a plurality of magnets located at spaced intervals along the elongate housing.

23. A method according to claim 20 wherein the structure has a plurality of spaced frame members of ferromagnetic material, and the sheet material is held between the magnetic surfaces of the holding devices and magnetically receptive surfaces of the frame members.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein at least some of the magnetic holding devices are provided with a least one retaining member having a part with a retaining surface extending from the housing at an angle to the substantially flat magnetic surface for engagement with a surface of one of the frame members extending at an angle to the magnetically receptive surface of the frame member.

25. A magnetic holding device comprising an elongate member including at least one magnet and having a substantially flat magnetic surface on or in close proximity to

the magnet, whereby the elongate member is adapted to hold material between said magnetic surface and a magnetically receptive surface;

wherein at least one retaining member is provided on the elongate member, the retaining member having a retaining surface extending from the elongate member at an angle to the substantially flat magnetic surface.

26. A magnetic holding device according to claim 25, wherein the retaining member is integral with the elongate member of the magnetic holding device.

27. A magnetic holding device according to claim 25, wherein the retaining member is attached to the elongate member of the magnetic holding device.

28. A magnetic holding device according to claim 27, wherein the retaining member is adjustable having a lip part movable between an extended position in which the lip part presents a retaining surface extending outwardly from the elongate member generally perpendicularly to the substantially flat magnetic surface, and a retracted position.

29. A magnetic holding device according to claim 25, wherein the elongate member comprises a housing containing at least one pair of magnets at longitudinally spaced apart positions of the elongate member.

30. A magnetic holding device according to claim 29, wherein the housing comprises an elongate rod having retaining members provided at each end of the rod.

31. A magnetic holding device according to claim 29 wherein the housing is of tubular form for mounting on a rod or tube, the housing having a pair of magnet housing members extending outwardly from the tubular housing.

32. A magnetic holding device according to claim 29, wherein retaining members in the form of sleeves with end lip parts are mounted on the magnet housing members.

33. A magnetic holding device according to claim 27, wherein ferromagnetic material is provided between said at least one pair of magnets within the housing.

21  
cont.

~~34.~~ A magnetic holding device comprising an elongate housing member containing at least one pair of magnets at longitudinally spaced apart positions of the elongate housing member, and ferromagnetic material provided between the pair of magnets within the housing.

~~35.~~ A magnetic holding device according to claim 25, wherein the elongate member is made of wooden or plastics material.

~~36.~~ A magnetic holding device according to claim 25 wherein the at least one magnet is mounted on a surface of the elongate member.

~~37.~~ A magnetic holding device according to claim 25, wherein the at least one magnet is mounted within a recess in the elongate member, with a surface of the magnet forming the substantially flat magnetic surface of the device.

~~38.~~ A magnetic holding device according to claim 25, wherein the at least one magnet is housed within the elongate member with a magnetic surface of the magnet being in close proximity to a surface of the elongate member forming said substantially flat magnetic surface of the device.